

**A Weekend with Dr Margaret Barker,
Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th May**



The Lady of the Temple

The renowned Bible scholar and author, Dr Margaret Barker, is coming to St Oswald's Church, Warton (LA5 9PG) to lead a day seminar exploring the Lady of the Temple.

In Solomon's temple in Jerusalem they venerated a female figure in heaven who was the Mother of the Messiah. In Christian tradition, her roles were transferred to Mary, but she has been almost lost from the way the bible is read today in many western churches. The seminar will trace her story and recover the almost-lost Lady of the Temple. The four talks during the day will be titled:

1. The temple purge that banished the Lady.
2. How the Lady disappeared from the Old Testament.
3. A portrait of the Lady.
4. The Lady as Mary.

The seminar will take place **on Saturday 18th May from 9.30am to 4.00pm.**

The cost of the day will be £15 (drinks provided but please bring your own lunch). To book contact the Vicar, the Revd Robin Figg, 01524 732946 or robin.figg62@gmail.com. Pay on arrival, cash or cheques only.

Hear Margaret Preach

Margaret will also preach on Sunday 19th May at the 9.15am Eucharist at St John's, Yealand and the 11.00am Eucharist at St Oswald's, Warton.

Background to Margaret Barker

Margaret lectures and teaches widely in this country and in the United States. Her visit here is a marvellous opportunity to hear a wonderful teacher of Christian texts.

In 2008 Rowan Williams, the then Archbishop of Canterbury, awarded Margaret a Doctorate in Divinity, 'in recognition of her work on the Jerusalem Temple and the origins of Christian Liturgy, which has made a significantly new contribution to our understanding of the New Testament and opened up important fields for research.'

For more information about Margaret Barker and her work see www.margaretbarker.com and www.templestudiesgroup.com

What is Temple Theology?

Temple Theology traces the roots of Christian theology and worship back into the first Temple, destroyed by the cultural revolution at the end of the seventh century BCE. Refugees from the purges settled in Egypt and Arabia. From widely scattered surviving fragments, it is possible to reconstruct the lost world view of the first Christians.

How is Temple Theology relevant to us today?

We live at a time of widespread ignorance of Christianity; in particular, there is a lack of knowledge of Christianity's fundamental visionary and mystical elements. Often we feel bewildered about how best to respond.

Temple Theology enables us to restore to their original settings a number of key concepts which sound familiar but are so often not well understood: the Messiah, divine Sonship, covenant, atonement, resurrection, incarnation, the Second Coming, the Kingdom of God, and our role in

the creation. This has the potential to bring about a much-needed 're-enchantment' with the original elements of Christian spirituality.

It has been said that discovering the insights given by Temple Theology can feel as if we are returning to a world that we 'have loved long since and lost awhile'.

Come and experience this for yourself on 18th May at St Oswald's.